

(22 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Statement-I

Procurement of Oilseeds under Price Support Scheme (PSS) by

<i>NA FED during the 2000-2001 upto mid</i>	<i>February, 2001</i>
Name of Oilseed	Quantity (IN MTS)
Soyabean	54,660
Sunflowerseed	37,194
Groundnut	20,781
Mustardseed	2,45,001
Safflowerseed	6,610
Copra (Milling)	2,10,586
(Ball)	1,537

Lifting of Restrictions on Import of Milk and Milk Products

119. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cheaper milk and milk products will flood the country if restriction on their imports is lifted in April, 2001;

(b) whether Government would impose quantitative curbs and tariff to safeguard the interests of Indian producers even if multinationals import subsidised milk and milk products; and

(c) how Government propose to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) India has been removing restrictions on import in a phased manner since 1991. In this process, import restrictions on some items of milk and milk products have already been removed and on the remaining items quantitative restrictions will be removed on 31.3.2001.

(b) and (c) Import of Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP) is freely allowed without any restriction, since 1995. In 1999-2000 due to fall

in international prices, there was a surge in imports of SMP. In order to prevent cheap imports of milk powder from adversely affecting domestic producers, Government of India, after negotiations with its trading partners raised the bound rate of duty on Skimmed Milk Powder and Whole Milk Powder from 0% to 60% with an annual global Tariff Rate Quota of 10,000 metric tonnes at concessional duty rate of 15% on both lines taken together.

Cut in Support Prices of Wheat and Rice

120. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to cut the support prices of wheat and rice, in view of excess crops;
- (b) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter;
- (c) whether the State Government's have protested against the proposal; and
- (d) if so, in what precise terms, and the Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Import of Milk

† 121. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to start the import of milk from April, 2001;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the import of milk would have an adverse impact on the milk trade of the country?

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.